

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 7, 14, and 18 have been amended, and claim 17 canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-16 and 18-22 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 18, and 19 are independent.

In the Office Action of November 14, 2006, claims 7, 14, and 18 were objected to because of various informalities. Regarding this objection, the Office Action indicates that these claims contain language that give rise to certain antecedent informalities, and requested that these informalities be corrected prior to allowance.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 7, 14, and 18 to address the informalities identified in the Office Action. The amendments are believed to have remedied all of the informalities identified in the Office Action.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that, as amended, claims 7, 14, and 18 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-16 and 18-22 were indicated as being allowable, with the exception of the informalities to which the Office Action had objected. Accordingly, all of the pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.


For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 1021.43049X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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